IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently Amended) In a system for sending messages over a network between first and second computing units, method comprising the following steps:
- (a). computing r components of encrypting key e.sub.1, e.sub.2, ..., e.sub.r and r components of decrypting key d.sub.1, d.sub.2, ..., d.sub.r according to the following relations:

 $(e.sub.1).(d.sub.1) + (e.sub.2).(d.sub.2) + \dots \\ + (e.sub.r).(d.sub.r) = (k.sub.1).(p-1).(q-1) + 1 \text{ and} \\ (d.sub.1) + (d.sub.2) + \dots + (d.sub.r) = (k.sub.2).(p-1).(q-1), \text{ where:}$

p and q are two prime numbers;

k.sub.1 and k.sub.2 are suitable integers; and

encrypting a message M into r cipher versions M.sub.1, M.sub.2, ..., M.sub.r using the r blinded components of the encrypting key e.sub.1+t, e.sub.2+t, ..., e.sub.r+t as follows:

 $M.sub.1=(M.sup.(e.sub.1+t)) \mod n$

 $M.sub.2=(M.sup.(e.sub.2+t)) \mod n$

M.sub.r=(M.sup.(e.sub.r+t)) mod n, where:

n=p.q;

t is a random number generated on <u>an</u> encrypting unit and discarded after encryption is complete;

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| mod represents the remainder left when left hand operand is divided by |
|--|
| right hand operand; |
| or |
| computing the key components e.sub.1, e.sub.2, , e.sub.r |
| and d.sub.1, d.sub.2,, d.sub.r according to the following |
| relation and conditions: |
| <u>(e.sub.1).(d.sub.1)+(e.sub.2).(d.sub.2)+</u> |
| +(e.sub.r).(d.sub.r)=(k.su-b.1).(p-1).(q-1)+1 and |
| each of the values (e.sub.1), (e.sub.2), , (e.sub.r) has a |
| common factor with (p-1).(q-1), but there is no common factor |
| for all (e.sub.1), (e.sub.2), , (e.sub.r), (p-1).(q-1), where: |
| ——— p and q are prime numbers; |
| k.sub.1 is a suitable integer; and |
| — encrypting a message M into r cipher versions M.sub.1, |
| M.sub.2,, M.sub.r using the r components of the encrypting |
| key, e.sub.1, e.sub.2 , e.sub.r as follows: |
| — M.sub.1=M.sup.(e.sub.1) mod n |
| — M.sub.2=M.sup.(e.sub.2) mod-n |
| |
| M.sub.r=M.sup.(e.sub.r) mod n, where: |
| |
| — p and q are two prime numbers; |
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- (b). delivering all the cipher versions of the message individually to **the**<u>a</u> destination unit in source routing mode, or hop-by-hop routing mode with a small time gap between every two consecutive cipher versions;
 - (c). collecting all the cipher versions at the destination unit;
- (d). computing r number of values N.sub.1, N.sub.2, ..., N.sub.r using r components d.sub.1, d.sub.2, ..., d.sub.r of decrypting key, where:

N.sub.1=((M.sub.1).sup.(d.sub.1)) mod n N.sub.2=((M.sub.2).sup.(d.sub.2)) mod n

. . .

 $N.sub.r=((M.sub.r).sup.(d.sub.r)) \mod n$, where:

n is the same composite number as used for encryption;

(e). reproducing the original message M as follows:

M=(N.sub.1).(N.sub.2)...(N.sub.r) mod n, where:

n is the same composite number as used for encryption;

wherein r=2.

2.-9. (Cancelled)

- 10. (Currently Amended) A system of claim 1, wherein at **lest <u>least</u>** one encrypted version of the message is bypassed to a secret host that is not exposed to the public while the remaining are directed to **the a** main host, where the bypassed cipher versions are also collected from the secret host.
- 11. (Original) A system of claim 1, wherein redundant cipher versions of a message are generated and delivered to the destination, where they are identified and discarded before decryption.

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- 12. (Original) A system of claim 10, wherein the cipher version received at a secret host is further encrypted in a symmetric key encryption method before sending it to the main host, where it is decrypted by the same symmetric key.
- 13. (Currently Amended) A system for sending messages over a communications channel, comprising any of the following two options:
- (a). an encoder to transform a message M into two or more cipher versions M.sub.1, M.sub.2, . . . , M.sub.r as follows:

 $M.sub.1=(M.sup.(e.sub.1+t)) \mod n$

 $M.sub.2=(M.sup.(e.sub.2+t)) \mod n$

M.sub.r (M.sup.(e.sub.r+t)) mod n, where:

t is a random number generated on an encrypting machine;

e.sub.1, e.sub.2, ..., e.sub.r are encrypting key components computed according to the relations:

(e.sub.1).(d.sub.1)+(e.sub.2).(d.sub.2)+ . . .

+(c.sub.r).(d.sub.r)=(k.sub.1).(p-1).(q-1)+1

and

(d.sub.1)+(d.sub.2)+...+(d.sub.r)=(k.sub.2).(p-1).(q-1);

p and q are prime numbers, and n=p.q;

k.sub.1 and k.sub.2 are suitable integers;

(d.sub.1), (d.sub.2), . . . , (d.sub.r) are components of **the** <u>an</u> other key used by **the** <u>a</u> recipient for decrypting the cipher versions into the original message;

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a decoder coupled to receive the cipher versions M.sub.1, M.sub.2, ..., M.sub.r from the communications channel and to transform them back to the original message M, where M is a function of M.sub.1, M.sub.2, ..., M.sub.r and computed as follows: $N.sub.1=((M.sub.1).sup.(d.sub.1)) \mod n$ $N.sub.2=((M.sub.2).sup.(d.sub.2)) \mod n$ $N.sub.r=((M.sub.r).sup.(d.sub.r)) \mod n$ $M=(N.sub.1).(N.sub.2)...(N.sub.2 \underline{r}) \mod n.$ (b). an encoder to transform a message M into two or more cipher versions M.sub.1, M.sub.2, ..., M.sub.r as follows: M.sub.1=M.sup.(e.sub.1) mod n M.sub.2=M.sup.(e.sub.2) mod n -M.sub.r=M.sup.(e.sub.r) mod n, where: e.sub.1, e.sub.2, ..., e.sub.r are encrypting key components computed according to the following relation and conditions: (e.sub.1).(d.sub.1)+(e.sub.2).(d.sub.2)+ . . . +(e.sub.r).(d.sub.r)=(k.su-b.1).(p-1).(q-1)+1 and each of the values (e.sub.1), (e.sub.2), ..., (e.sub.r) has a common factor with (p-1).(q-1), but there is no common factor for all the values (e.sub.1), (e.sub.2), ..., (e.sub.r), and (p-1).(q-1), where:

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p and q are two prime numbers; n=p.q;

| k.sub.1 is a suitable integer; and |
|---|
| —— (d.sub.1), (d.sub.2),, (d.sub.r) are decrypting key |
| components used by the recipient for decrypting the cipher |
| versions into the original message; |
| a decoder coupled to receive the cipher versions M.sub.1, |
| M.sub.2,, M.sub.r from the communications channel and to |
| transform them back to the original message M, where M is a |
| function of M.sub.1, M.sub.2,, M.sub.r and computed as |
| follows: |
| N.sub.1=((M.sub.1).sup.(d.sub.1)) mod n |
| N.sub.2=((M.sub.2).sup.(d.sub.2)) mod n |
| • |
| N.sub.r=((M.sub.r).sup.(d.sub.r)) mod n |
| M=(N.sub.1).(N.sub.2)(N.sub.r) mod n |
| wherein r=2. |
| |

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions causing **the a** computer to compute the following: key components (e.sub.1), (e.sub.2), ..., (e.sub.r) and (d.sub.1), (d.sub.2), ..., (d.sub.r) according to the relations as follows: (e.sub.1).(d.sub.1)+(e.sub.2).(d.sub.2)+ ... +(e.sub.r).(d.sub.r)=(k.sub.1).(p-1).(q-1)+1 and (d.sub.1)+(d.sub.2)+ ... +(d.sub.r)=(k.sub.2).(p-1).(q-1), where: p and q are prime numbers; and k.sub.1 and k.sub.2 are suitable integers; cipher versions of the original message M as follows:

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 $M.sub.1=(M.sup.(e.sub.1+t)) \mod n M.sub.2=(M.sup.(e.sub.2+t)) \mod n \dots$ M.sub.r=(M. sup.(e.sub.r+t))mod n, where: t is a random number generated on an encrypting machine and discarded after encryption is complete. original message as follows: N.sub.1=((M.sub.1).sup.(d.sub.1)) mod n $N.sub.2=((M.sub.2).sup.(d.sub.2)) \mod n \dots N.sub.r=((M.sub.r).sup.(d.sub.2))$ ub.r)) mod n M=(N.sub.1).(N.sub.2)...(N.sub.r) mod n

15. (Cancelled)

A method of sending a message over a network, comprising the 16. (New) steps of:

applying two components of an encryption key to a message to generate two ciphers, using two blind exponents of the encryption key, wherein the two blind exponents of the encryption key are generated by adding a random number to each of the two components of the encryption key;

discarding the random number; sending the two ciphers across the network to a receiver.